

The Dower House, 116 High Street, Bildeston BIL 015

Application No. B/04/01827/FHA

TL 9929 4947

Oasis No. suffolkc1-5522

Report No. 2004/176

Summary

An archaeological monitoring of footing trenches for a conservatory extension at The Dower House, 116 High Street, Bildeston did not locate any archaeological evidence.

Introduction

Two visits were made to the site on the 17th and 20th December 2004 to monitor the excavation of footing trenches for a small conservatory on the rear of 116 High Street. The work was carried out to a Brief and Specification issued by Keith Wade (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team) to fulfil a planning condition on application B/04/01827. The work was funded by the developer, Westbury Conservatories.

Interest in the site was based upon its general location within the small medieval town, defined in the County Sites and Monuments Record as an archaeological site of regional importance, and the groundworks had the potential to disturb archaeological deposits.

Methodology and Results

The plot, measuring 4 by 5m, lay immediately to the rear of the property, where a small extension had been demolished (Fig. 1). The whole area was lowered to 0.3m below the level of the garden to the north (which may have been previously raised), by the removal of topsoil and modern material, until it was approximately the same level as the driveway to the south. The footing trenches, measuring 0.5m wide, were then excavated and showed the natural subsoil of mid brown/orange clay/silt at a depth of 0.2m, sealed beneath a layer of mixed topsoil and building debris.

Discussion

The footing trenches showed the natural subsoil at a relatively high level, immediately below recent deposits and no archaeological evidence was seen.

John Craven, December 2004

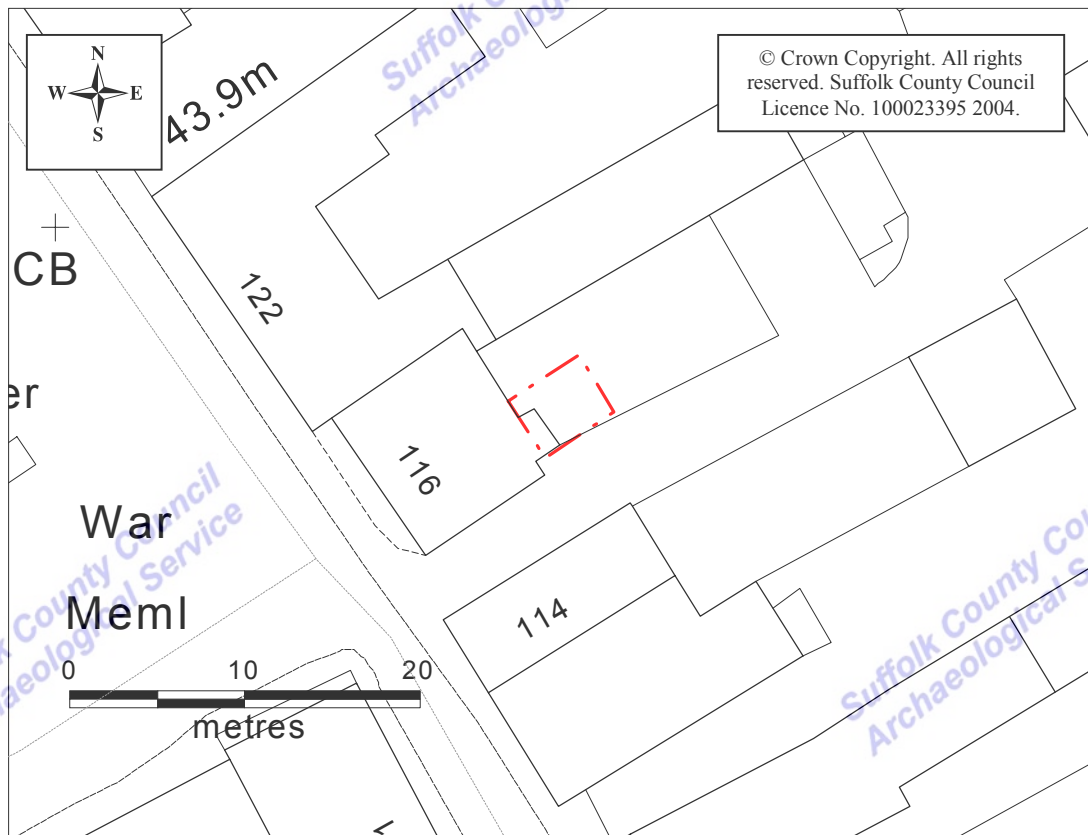


Figure 1. Site location plan